

Message Text

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21

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0265

E.O. 11653: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, UN, DA

SUBJECT: EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING: BORCH'S CANDIDACY
FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNGA

REF: DUBLIN 162, 175, 176; BONN 1430

1. ACTING POLITICAL DIRECTOR OLE BIERRING GAVE THE CHARGE
JANUARY 29 A RUNDOWN OF THE JANUARY 23-24 MEETING OF EC
POLITICAL DIRECTORS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN THE REFTELS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, BIERRING ADMITTED THAT THERE
HAD ALSO BEEN A DISCUSSION OF THE CANDIDACY OF DANISH POLITICAL
DIRECTOR OTTO BORCH FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT OF THE NEXT UN
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE SAID THAT THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS

(AT A MEETING HE ATTENDED IN PLACE OF BORCH WHO WAS ILL IN THE HOSPITAL) REACHED NO DECISION ABOUT THE ASPIRATIONS OF THEIR DANISH COLLEAGUE BUT DECIDED TO REFLECT FURTHER UPON THE MATTER. IT MAY WELL ARISE AT NEXT MONTH'S MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS.

3. BIERRING SAID THAT THE CANDIDACY OF AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILLESEE HAD BEEN LAUNCHED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO BIERRING, HAD SUBSEQUENTLY INQUIRED WHY THE AUSTRALIANS SHOULD HAVE A SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENCY WHEN OTHER WEO COUNTRIES HAD NEVER HAD THAT PRIVILEGE. IT WAS THEN POINTED OUT (BY WHOM, BIERRING DID NOT SAY) THAT BORCH HAD MADE AN EXCELLENT RECORD AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE AT THE 28TH GA, AND HAD HAD A NUMBER OF YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS DANISH PERMREP IN NEW YORK. SINCE THE UN WAS ADMITTEDLY APPROACHING A DIFFICULT PERIOD IN ITS HISTORY, IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE A PERSON WITH RECOGNIZED TECHNICAL COMPETENCE SUCH AS BORCH RATHER THAN A MORE POLITICAL PERSONALITY, EVEN THOUGH THE LATTER WAS OF MINISTERIAL RANK. BIERRING SAID THAT BORCH HIMSELF WOULD NOT WISH TO ENGAGE IN A CONTEST WITH A FRIENDLY FOREIGN MINISTER AND WOULD, HE THOUGHT, BE PREPARED TO STEP BACK GRACEFULLY IF WILLESEE WERE TO GAIN MUCH SUPPORT. BIERRING WAS AWARE THAT THE US DID NOT TAKE A POSITION ON A CANDIDACY UNTIL IT HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BY REGIONAL GROUPS (PRESUMABLY HAVING RECEIVED REPORTS ABOUT THE DANISH DEMARCHES IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK).

4. COMMENT: THERE IS, OF COURSE, MORE TO THE STORY THAN THE ABOVE. IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT HANS TABOR, WHO HAD BEEN DANISH PERMREP UNTIL HE CORSSSED FOREIGN MINISTER GULDBERG SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, HAD WANTED TO HAVE HIS OWN CANDIDACY PUT FORWARD. WHEN HE RAN AFOUL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER (OVER THE PLO VOTE) AND WAS "BANISHED" TO OTTAWA, THE DANISH DESIRE TO OCCUPY THE PRESTIGIOUS GA PRESIDENCY DID NOT DIMINISH. BORCH WAS A READY-MADE CANDIDATE AND THE DRUMBEATS FOR HIM STARTED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. NOW THEY ARE NO LONGER MUFFLED AND THE DANES ARE APPARENTLY BEGINNING TO PRESSURE THEIR EC AND OTHER FRIENDS FOR SIGNS

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OF OPEN SUPPORT. APPARENTLY, THE REAL QUESTION MARK IN THEIR MINDS, AS FAR AS THE EC MEMBERS ARE CONCERNED, IS THE BRITISH ATTITUDE, SINCE THEY SUSPECT THAT THE COMMONWEALTH TIME MAY STILL BE TOO STRONG FOR LONDON TO WANT TO BUCK THE AUSTRALIANS ON THIS ISSUE. FROM WHAT WE CAN LEARN, THE DANES DO NOT WANT A CONFRONTATION WITH THE AUSTRALIANS, AND PROBABLY HOPE THAT IF THE WILLESEE CANDIDACY DOES NOT CATCH FIRE HIS NAME WILL BE WITHDRAWN AND BORCH WILL BE THE

ONLY SERIOUS CONTENDER LEFT IN THE FIELD.
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